

million of the bill's funding is directed to provide grants to make polling places physically accessible to those with disabilities. This funding ensures that for the first time in our Nation's history, the Federal Government will contribute our share to the cost of administering elections for Federal office.

I hope that this legislation completes our Nation's journey to ensuring that all eligible Americans are able to cast their vote fairly, accurately, and without interference. To some, this legislation may not be perfect, but I can assure my colleagues that it is the result of reasoned compromise and is a balanced response to all that our Nation has learned from the 2000 elections. I hope that when my colleagues and I return in January, we can work with the Senate leadership to ensure that bringing this legislation to the Senate floor is one of our top priorities.

EXPIRATION OF TRADE PROVISIONS

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, in the whirlwind of activity that always accompanies the end of a legislative session, many critical legislative decisions are made and critical legislation passes. Often it takes some time to tote up the wins and losses and arrive at a final evaluation of what has been achieved and what remains to be done.

Despite the efforts of those in the Senate, one of the losses for the session is the expiration of three key trade programs, the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), the Andean Trade Preferences Act (ATPA), and Trade Adjustment Assistance program.

What is surprising about the expiration of these programs is all three of them have nearly universal support. They expire not because of a legitimate difference in policies and not because the programs have served their purpose. They expire because of political maneuvering in the House.

In my view, it always reflects poorly on the Congress when needed programs expire due to political machinations or simply lack of attention. It sends poor signals to those that depend on these programs. In this case, the U.S. companies that import products under GSP and ATPA and the foreign countries we are attempting to aid through these programs can hardly avoid the impression that these programs are a low priority for Congress.

In the case of ATPA, there are those that believe that expiration will spur a rapid move to expand ATPA. I support an expansion of ATPA, but I believe such brinkmanship is far more likely to result in a long break in ATPA than it is a quick expansion.

Fortunately, in the case of both GSP and ATPA it is possible to extend these tariff benefits retroactively. If the U.S. importers are able to shift funds and

wait, there is a good chance they will ultimately receive the promised benefits from these programs.

Sadly, this is not the case with the expiration of the Trade Adjustment Assistance program. This program provides income support and training benefits to workers who have lost their jobs due to trade. It provides them the opportunity to train for a new job and rebuild their lives. Given that they are unemployed, they are generally not in a position to absorb a three month or a six month break in benefits.

I understand that the Department of Labor plans to advise the state agencies that work with them to administer TAA plan to advise those agencies to keep paying benefits because they expect the program to be reauthorized. The Department of Labor's advise is sound; indeed, I hope to win passage for a considerable expansion of TAA.

Unfortunately, there is no guarantee that state agencies will keep operating based upon this federal promise and borrow money from other programs to support TAA. In fact, in at least 5 states, state law prohibits such fund shifting.

This raises the prospect that some of the 35,000 TAA recipients around the United States will receive a very nasty Christmas present—the unexpected halt of the benefits on which they depend to rebuild their lives and support their families.

Mr. President, I believe Congress is sometimes criticized unfairly. Sometimes, however, the rush of events diverts attention from some of the glaring errors we make.

The stubborn obstinance of some of the other body to extend TAA is, in my view, a shameful example of playing politics with the interest of those citizens that can least afford it. I hope this example is not lost on journalists, editorial writers, and, ultimately, voters. Someone should be held accountable.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of this year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred in May 1995 in West Palm Beach, FL. A gay man was robbed and brutally murdered. The attacker, Ronald Knight, 27, was convicted of first-degree murder, armed robbery, and a hate crime in connection with the incident.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement En-

hancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation, we can change hearts and minds as well.

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION

Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss legislation that establishes the National Museum of African American History and Culture Presidential Commission. On Monday, December 17, 2001, the Senate passed, with my support, H.R. 3442 which establishes the National Museum of African American History and Culture Presidential Commission. The Presidential Commission will develop and recommend a legislative plan of action for creating a national museum on the National Mall that recognizes the unique historical and cultural legacy of African Americans. The U.S. House of Representatives passed the legislation, introduced by Representative JOHN LEWIS, on December 11, 2001 by voice vote.

The African American legacy is one of gradual steps that have moved this group of Americans from slavery to full partnership in our society and culture. African Americans have played a central part in the development of our country's democratic institutions and our commitment to individual freedom and equal rights. Despite this history, there is currently no national museum located in Washington, D.C. on the National Mall devoted to telling the African American story. I believe this museum is the next stage in recognizing the burdens born by African Americans and celebrating their unique contributions to our nation.

Many notable African Americans have made contributions in the areas of science, medicine, the arts and humanities, sports, music and dance. It is right to honor this legacy on a national level. I believe that by establishing this museum this nation will be able to finally honor the legacy of African Americans properly. By placing this museum on the National Mall, we will finally place the history of African Americans in a national light, where it belongs.

The legislation creates a 23 member commission made up of individuals who specialize in African American history, education and museum professionals. The commission has nine months to present its recommendations to the President and Congress regarding an action plan for creating a national museum honoring African Americans. The Commission will decide the structure and make-up of the museum, devise a governing board for the museum, and among other action items, will decide whether to place the museum within the Smithsonian's Arts and Industries Building, which is the

last existing space on the National Mall.

This museum will commemorate and honor the 400 years of African American history in this country and beyond. Legislation was introduced just about every session of Congress between 1919 and 1929 to create a memorial building to house exhibits demonstrating the achievements of African Americans in art, science, invention and all aspects of life. I am both proud and pleased to be associated with this project and look forward to seeing this legislation signed into law by the President in the near future.

THE POLICE CORPS PROGRAM

Mr. LOTT. It is my understanding there are concerns with the Police Corps Program. It appears that funding from within the current fiscal year is not being made available to certain States.

Mr. GREGG. I appreciate the minority leader's concerns with Police Corps. I have been told that OMB and the Department of Justice have rectified this situation. Both organizations have agreed that any funds available for Police Corps in fiscal year 2002 and unexpended balances from prior fiscal years will be made available for new programs if currently eligible participants have not used the funding provided for their State.

Mr. STEVENS. I have the same understanding. OMB and Justice have decided that available funds can be used from the current balances. I am glad this issue has been worked out.

Mr. KERRY. I very much appreciate the comments of Senators LOTT, STEVENS, and GREGG concerning the Police Corps program, which provides scholarships on a competitive basis to students who earn their bachelor's degrees, complete approved Police Corps training, and then serve for four years on patrol with law enforcement agencies in areas of great need. The Police Corps gives States funding to provide residential police training and to provide local and State agencies that hire Police Corps officers \$10,000 a year for each of an officer's first 4 years of service. The fiscal year 2002 Senate Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary Appropriations bill, under the leadership of Chairman HOLLINGS and Ranking Member GREGG, included \$30 million for the Police Corps program. However, I was very disappointed that this amount was reduced to \$14.435 million in the conference report, which included legislative language that the Police Corps program has sufficient unobligated balances available to allow the program to maintain its activities in fiscal year 2002 at the prior year level.

I am very concerned that the Office of Justice Programs is not planning to provide appropriate funding for the Po-

lice Corps program in fiscal year 2002. It is my understanding that the Office of Justice Programs' plan for the Police Corps program could limit the ability of local law enforcement agencies to address violent crime by decreasing the number of officers with advanced education and training who serve on community patrol in high-crime areas. This could negatively affect the Police Corps program in my home State of Massachusetts, which is currently updating its training curriculum to provide the rigorous physical and moral police training that will help Police Corps recruits work effectively in high-crime areas within Massachusetts. As our nation remains on high alert due to recent terrorist attacks, the Police Corps program will play a crucial role in training future policemen and policewomen to stop terrorist activities before they hurt innocent Americans.

It is my understanding that there are unobligated funds available to provide the Police Corps program with the funding necessary to increase the number of recruits above the modest demonstration level of approximately 25 trainees per state per year and to assist in resolving the current backlog of funding requests for the program.

I believe that the Department of Justice should provide such funds as are necessary to maintain the current level of activity in Police Corps operations and to begin to resolve the current backlog of funding requests for the program. I look forward to working with Chairman HOLLINGS, Ranking Member GREGG and others to assure that the Police Corps program is treated fairly by the Office of Justice Programs this year and in future years, and to insure that this important program receives adequate funding in the future.

BIOTERRORISM

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the important achievement the Senate has made today in defending our homeland. Just over two months ago, my state of Florida was the site of the first in a series of bioterrorist attacks on our Nation that culminated here in Washington, DC. While the repercussions evolving out of the anthrax attacks on our mail system pale in comparison to the enormous tragedy of September 11, the families of those who suffered tragic deaths after being exposed to anthrax laced letters and those of us who continue to be displaced on Capitol Hill understand the very real dangers associated with the elusive threat of bioterrorism.

In the wake of the anthrax attacks, we, as a Nation, began to realize that we were not fully prepared to effectively and comprehensively respond to biological threats. The attack in Boca Raton, FL elicited an array of missteps

and symptoms of inadequate preparation at all levels of government. Because Floridians, and Americans, had never faced such a threat before, the necessary communication lines had not been formed and many emergency responders were not properly equipped to handle this new type of crisis. The Bioterrorism Preparedness Act of 2001, passed by the Senate today, is an important first step at increasing our ability to respond to, and prevent, future biological attacks at the Federal, State, and local levels. It will enhance our ability to detect an attack by improving disease surveillance systems and public health laboratories. It will improve our ability to treat victims of an attack by increasing hospital capacity for disease outbreaks. It will also enhance our ability to contain an attack by expanding pharmaceutical stockpiles and accelerating the development of new treatments. Finally, this bill seeks to target future bioterrorist threats in a comprehensive manner by protecting our food sources and other potential targets.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight a portion of the bill that I believe is essential to our Nation's coordinated prevention and response initiative. Like many Americans, I sought out additional information about the threat of bioterrorism after anthrax was discovered in Florida, New York, New Jersey, and Washington, DC. In the course of my research efforts, I had the opportunity to visit with some of the professors, researchers, and scientists that work for the University of South Florida Center for Biological Defense. The Center for Biological Defense is a joint project of the University of South Florida College of Public Health and the Florida Department of Health. The Center focuses on a full spectrum of studies and programs, ranging from research and development to outreach and educational seminars. The Center has implemented a multifaceted approach to biological defense research that utilizes a number of universities throughout the state of Florida to implement its studies and projects. The Center for Biological Defense has laboratory programs that are dedicated to improving surveillance systems, developing early detection capabilities, rapidly identifying pathogens, and fully understanding the factors that affect the toxicity of biological agents. Moreover, the Center concentrates on efforts to enhance health care preparedness, to strengthen hospital hygiene and containment capabilities, and to coordinate vital educational and training programs for emergency management and health professionals, which has proven to be a crucial component of the response efforts to the anthrax contamination occurring over the course of the past 2 months.

While the preeminent focus of the Bioterrorism Preparedness Act of 2001